

Remarks/Arguments

Claim 1 remains pending in the Application. Claim 1 has been amended to recite and emphasize that the method herein includes the step of placing said marking on said skin and said switches embedded in said foam layer underlying said colored skin into a vehicle in the form of a vehicle interior trim panel. Support can be found at paragraph [0029] of the published application which recited that the marking in the skin surface may be employed for a vehicle interior trim panel. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite that said one or more switches include a switch arm capable of engaging electrical connectors. Support can be found at paragraph [0043] of the published application which specifies that upon application of a force F on the skin layer the switches which include a switch arm to contact conductors is configured such that the switch arm will contact the conductors and close the electrical circuit. No new matter has been entered by this amendment.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 over Filion in view of Welz et al.

In the Office Action of October 17, 2006, the Examiner indicated that Filion was missing the following features of claim 1:

- The use of colored skin. Office Action at page 3
- A process of marking the outer skin layer using a laser. Office Action at page 3.

The Examiner next turned to Welz et al for the proposition that Welz taught in general the use of a laser beam to mark on a plastic substrate. Applicants noted that even if this is accurate, Welz does not teach or suggest the specific use of the features now recited in amended claim 1 and in particular the vehicular application of a laser inscribed skin layer utilized in conjunction

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with a switch arm which upon application of a force the skin layer deforms to enable said switch arm to contact said electrical connectors.

In consideration of the remarks hereinabove, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims currently pending in the Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date is respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner deems personal contact is necessary, please contact the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,

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